

KNOW YOUR ENEMY No. 11

SEARCHLIGHT

BRITAIN'S ANTI-FASCIST JOURNAL

BY MARK
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"Enemy" is the right word for "Searchlight" by far the most obnoxious publication in Britain. It was first published in 1965 and appeared a few times in the late sixties. Since April 1975 it has been coming out monthly and absorbed, at the end of 1979, an irregularly published paper called "CARF", the "paper of the anti-Racist, anti-Fascist Co-ordinating Committee."

Its first editor in the post-1975 period was Maurice Ludmer, an ex-Communist who was a Party member from the early 1940s until early 1968. He was therefore one of those who stayed in the CPGB even after Hungary, which must call his democratic credentials into doubt. Shortly after leaving the CPGB, apparently on the grounds that it wasn't anti-racist enough, he called for the prosecution of Enoch Powell for his famous "River of Blood" speech - overlooking the trifling detail that Enoch's views were fully supported by the vast majority of the British people! His successor as editor after his death in May 1981 was Veronica Ware (about whom I know nothing), but "Searchlight" hasn't listed an editor since June 1983.

"Searchlight's" politics have been obvious ever since it was founded; its very first issue in 1975 included an attack on Solzhenitsyn, accusing him of "defending traitors"; Russian anti-Communists who fought with the Germans. Their first year or so of publication included several such attacks on Solzhenitsyn, and included defence of the war-criminals who handed over Russian anti-Communists to Stalin after the sell-out at Yalta who have since been exposed by Lord Bethall and Count Tolstoy (my view is that expecting Ukrainians or Cossacks to fight for Stalin is rather like expecting Jews to fight for Hitler); a eulogy for Communist Paul Robertson and a carping obituary for Field-Marshal Montgomery; and a reference to a Left winger called Dave Roberts who had infiltrated the NF as "a working class young man with a strong sense of justice" - he had been expelled from the Communist Party for entryism!

Since then they have been working on the same lines. A succession of smears against the Monday Club was ended only by a threat to sue for libel which might have put Ludmer's rag out of business. A description of Field Marshall Dr. Idi Amin Dada, VC, DC, MC, PhD, CBE etc as a "homocidal savage" elicited from "Searchlight" the comment "not surprising...the man was trained by the British Army." This was the same British Army which saved

Maurice Ludmer from visiting the concentration camps as an inmate rather than as a tourist.

In an article attacking Richard Nixon they referred to "US aggression against Korea", whilst their review of Martin Walker's book on the NF was extremely hostile - it wasn't Left-wing enough. Several times they attacked the elderly and hardly significant Sir Oswald Mosley. With the formation of the SWP front "Anti-Nazi League" (ANAL) "Searchlight" was at pains to suggest that SWP involvement was "minimal." (Virtually every branch was run by SWP members.)

Other "exposes" have seen them reveal anti-permissive campaigner Victoria Gillick's Powellite past, expose an attempt by National Action Party leader Adrian Wiltshire to get GLC funding (well, they lavish money on every other kind of weirdo) and print a highly subjective report of the Greater London YC AGM - revealing they have contacts within GLYC. (What a surprise -Ed.)

More amusingly they also accused Black economist Walter Williams of "racism"; revealed that a Labour Euro-Candidate held sound views on immigration and ritual slaughter; published a letter attacking the film "Indiana Jones as the Temple of Doom" as "racist" and print a highly interesting report on the somewhat unconventional activities of Major-General John Singlout, my choice for President Reagan's successor.

"Searchlight's" views on education are predictable. They supported a campaign (which failed miserably) to sack NF leader Andrew Brons from his job as a college lecturer, despite the fact that Brons had never mentioned his political beliefs in the classroom. On the Harrington affair they've even resorted to downright lying. (They claim that "none of the students campaigning against Harrington have argued that he should be denied an education.")

"DREADNOUGHT" was mentioned two years ago in "Searchlight" as part of an item in which they stated they had "received a copy of a confidential report (on) right-wing (i.e. Conservative) infiltration" into the YCs. The report was prepared by (then) National YC Vice Chairman Phil Pedley. The laws of libel prevent me from stating my views as to how they got hold of it. They also mentioned that Uxbridge YCs had invited speakers from the Union Movement, NF and League of St.

George - omitting that Uxbridge also had speakers from the Labour Party, SDP, Young Liberals, even the Tory Reform Group!

I myself have been on the receiving end of their yellow journalism more than once - their latest edition reports a letter I had in IAM magazine calling for privatising broadcasting, mentions my writing to "*Labour Weekly*" posing as a Labour Party member, and my "connexions" with the Soviet dissident organisation NTS and the National Action Party. What these amount to in practice are as follows - on NTS, it means that both I and my colleagues in the Anti-Soviet Society know George Miller (of NTS). Both he and I were students at Essex University in the late 1970s. My only encounter with NAP members was at a public meeting last year when some of them yelled threats and abuse at Ken Livingstone. Perhaps "*Searchlight*" haven't forgiven me for twice getting letters in their magazine correcting inaccuracies.

If they read this (*they will as soon as their narks in GLYC send them a copy -Ed.*) they might like to know where I stand politically. I am a libertarian Conservative Nationalist; my favourite politician is Senator Barry Goldwater, my favourite MP was Sir Ronald Bell, my favourite philosopher Ayn Rand. On race and immigration I am anti-anti-racist. I believe that race relations would be immeasurably improved if the

"pro-immigrant" lobby, including "*Searchlight*", were to shup up. The real inciters of racial hatred are those who peddle "multi-cultural" and "anti-racist" education and who try to force their views down children's throats: People like the loony left on ILEA and the "*Searchlight*" writer who called school curricula "blatantly racist, stressing the greatness of British civilisation". What's wrong with that? My only regret about the Empire is that we don't have it any more.

What is "*Searchlight's*" future? Frankly I doubt if they really have one. After all they've been smearing me and reproducing a letter signed "Ronald Reagan" (I'm certain he never read it, much less wrote it) to a racist scientist called Roger Pearson two and a half years ago. They must be hard up! "*Searchlight*" are, to put it bluntly, santimonious and unpleasant Left-wing hypocrites. I say hypocrites because they rightly condemn NF violence, but condone violence against them. I believe that violence is violence and thuggery is thuggery. The Public Meetings Act of 1908 should be strengthened and ruthlessly enforced against all enemies of free speech. The National Front and similar organisations (I've never been a member of any of them and find their views idiotic) have the same rights as anyone else and should be treated no differently from any other political party. In short, I disapprove of what they say but will defend to the death their right to say it.